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Advocate of Peace.

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The President's Note to Japan and Russia, and the Prospect of Peace.

On June 8 the following dispatch was sent by President Roosevelt, through diplomatic channels, to the Japanese and Russian governments:

"The President feels that the time has come when in the interest of all mankind he must endeavor to see if it is not possible to bring to an end the terrible and lamentable conflict now being waged. With both Russia and Japan the United States has inherited ties of friendship and goodwill. It hopes for the prosperity and welfare of each, and it feels that the progress of the world is set back by the war between these two great nations.

"The President accordingly urges the Russian and Japanese governments, not only for their own sakes, but in the interest of the whole civilized world, to open direct negotiations for peace with one another.

"The President suggests that these peace negotiations be conducted directly and exclusively between the belligerents; in other words, that there may be a meeting of Russian and Japanese plenipotentiaries or delegates without any intermediary, in order to see if it is not possible for these representatives of the powers to agree to terms of peace.

"The President earnestly asks that the (Russian) (Japanese) government do now agree to such a meeting and is asking the (Japanese) (Russian) government likewise to agree. While the President does not feel that

any intermediary should be called in in respect to the peace negotiations themselves, he is entirely willing to do what he properly can if the two powers concerned feel that his services will be of aid in arranging the preliminaries as to the time and place of meeting.

"But, if even these preliminaries can be arranged directly between the two powers, or in any other way, the President will be glad, as his sole purpose is to bring about a meeting, which the whole civilized world will pray may result in peace."

It is an immense relief to the civilized world that the end of "the terrible and lamentable conflict" now seems to be in sight. The President's course has the heartiest approval of all our citizens without regard to party, though a few have suggested that it was due to simple impulse and boldness on his part. It was, to our thinking, one of the wisest and timeliest public acts which he has done. It is well known to many that for a whole year he and Mr. Hay had been watching for a favorable moment to offer good offices to try to end the conflict. Before the sea battle they were on the point of making a supreme effort to secure the joint action of all the important powers in an attempt at mediation.

The President's note, perfectly diplomatic as it was, was most direct and powerful, and also noble in spirit. It voiced the cry of the civilized world for the end of the war, and that is wherein much of its power lay. History has no record of any such general public insistence upon the termination of a war as has been witnessed in the case of this one. The President knew this and spoke for us all.

Contrary to the expectations of most of the European powers, Russia and Japan accepted the President's suggestion and agreed at once to follow the course indicated. They have since named each two eminent statesmen as peace commissioners, and will, as the President urged, negotiate directly instead of through some intermediary. The commissioners will meet in Washington early in August and then probably go, for their actual work, to some New England summer resort.

Though no armistice has yet been declared, it does not seem probable, in the present state of the proceedings, that the two great armies in Manchuria will again come to battle. There has been some skirmish fighting, but nothing general. The peace commissioners will probably reach an agreement in a comparatively short time, though their task is far from an easy one, notwithstanding the fact that it is under-